

Summary of the Friday Sermon Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV. On 7th February 1997

If you are ungrateful surely Allah is Self-Sufficient of you. And He is not pleased with ingratitude in His servants. But if you show gratefulness He likes it in you. And no bearer of burden shall bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return; and He will inform you of what you have been doing. Surely He is Well-Aware of what is in the depth of the breasts.

And when an affliction befalls a person they call upon the Lord turning to Him then when He confers upon them a favour from Himself he forgets what he used to pray for before and starts assigning rivals to Allah to lead astray from His way. Say 'Enjoy your ingratitude a little while; thou art surely of the inmates of the Fire.'

The Holy Quran. al-Zumar [The Throngs]: 8, 9.

With the bounty of Allah today is the Friday on which worshipers gather in the mosques the world over in such numbers that one never sees mosques being used so much throughout the year. Most of those who are able to offer this prayer do not benefit from this opportunity throughout the rest of the year. Some among these have a lasting connection with the mosques that requires no weather but those that have come today have also come for the sake of God and have come with many hopes. Some have come in hope that perhaps this single *Jummah* would fill the gaps of the past. One *Jummah* and in fact a single moment or a single night can fill the gaps of the past which is called the *Lailatul Qadr* [Night of Decree] but there are some conditions for it. The dawn is an essential after such a *Lailatul Qadr*.

These verses contain very important and deep psychological arguments. The meaning is that if you are disconnected from Allah the Almighty in your everyday lives then you entertain a mere fancy that you are connected to Allah. If you come and go then that is categorical proof that you had come for a temporary benefit otherwise you have not connected with His essence. Almighty God declares such people to be the inmates of the fire.

As Ahmadis you should wake up. If you have not been offering the formal prayers than may God cause this Friday to be of benefit to you but it will benefit only if you continue forever after offering these prayers and start belonging to God. Pray for yourselves as part of the bounty of this Friday and conscribe a plan of action for yourself and complete this Friday in worrying what you will do for the remainder of the year to gather the blessings of this Friday.

Worship is a part of these great changes that are to be made. The integral point in these verses is that of worship and with reference to worship night is mentioned [elsewhere] because worshipping during the night holds a special glory in terms of devotion to God. Ramadan enabled those who were not used to waking up during the night to wake up at night. Ramadan enabled them to free themselves of sins. Ramadan supported you to tread the paths of virtuous acts so do not abandon it altogether.

Those who have come today should especially remember that a person is dead without the formal prayer. So conscribe a plan of action for yourselves and attend to offering the formal prayers. You will have to make efforts to worship. One should not spend most of one's life in a state of carelessness. Rise from here today having decided to transform your future.

When making this decision remember that you also have to bathe, and also perform ablutions. Think about the ills that have separated you from God. Observe these ills and decide to abandon them for good and these decisions are important before offering worship. By bathing and ablution I do mean the apparent bathing and ablution but the real internal bath and ablution is meant.

At the very least the world should not see those stains upon you which do not behove the glory of a servant of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Understand all these subjects and then decide with the blessing of Allah to leave the city of ills and to start migrating towards the city of virtue. This is also mentioned in a Hadith of the Noble Prophet ﷺ so if you do this then Muhammad ﷺ the Messenger of Allah assures you that your end will be a righteous end but you must emigrate towards righteousness even if it be dragging along on your knees. Undergo this turbulence within yourselves and then this Friday of Farewell will be a Friday of the eradication of ills and a Friday bidding farewell to what displeases God. It will also be a Friday of welcoming everything which pleases God. May Allah enable us.

Pay attention to collective prayer most of the time, for the whole of humanity, for the benefit of the entire Ahmadiyya Community, pray to be rescued from all those perils lying in the path of the Community either by chance or through an organised plan of targeting and causing damage. When you make the prayers about yourselves towards which I have drawn attention, pray also for the whole of humanity, for the noble requirements needed by the Islamic world, for the progress of Ahmadiyya, to be saved from all harm. These vast and comprehensive prayers include prayers for the small menial needs which also are automatically catered for and rectified.